

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

October 11, 2023

Hon. Miguel Cardona
Secretary
U.S. Department of Education
400 Maryland Avenue, S.W.
Washington, D. C. 20202

Dear Secretary Cardona:

We write to express our concern for the wellbeing and safety of Jewish students in the United States. Within hours of the unprovoked and horrific attack on Israeli citizens, collegiate organizations released alarming and inflammatory statements supporting the violence that has left over 1,000 innocent civilians dead, including Americans.

Organizations like the Students for Justice in Palestine have called for a “National Day of Resistance” this Thursday, October 12, with demonstrations occurring on college campuses that could result in the creation of a hostile environment for Jewish students and acts of harassment against them.

Many student groups have issued statements condoning and even celebrating the terror attack, which should be considered a modern-day pogrom. Some student groups have even utilized imagery of a paraglider to advertise their rallies, unequivocally celebrating the despicable tactics used by Hamas – a terrorist organization that President Biden stated is “a group whose stated purpose for being is to kill Jews” in his October 10 remarks.¹²

As you are aware, schools have a legal obligation under Title VI of the *Civil Rights Act of 1964* to provide all students, including Jewish students, a school environment free from discrimination based on race, color, or national origin, including shared ancestry or ethnic characteristics. In May, the U.S. Department of Education launched its Antisemitism Awareness Campaign. An aspect of the Awareness Campaign was the promise to visit college campuses to learn more about antisemitism. However, as demonstrated by the rhetoric and recent actions of students across the country, antisemitic beliefs on college campuses are rampant and must not go unchallenged.

In light of developing events, we encourage the Department to engage immediately with colleges and universities on their obligations to take prompt and appropriate action to respond to harassment that creates a hostile environment for Jewish students. This should include placing

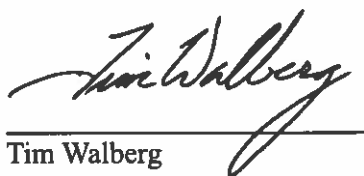
¹ https://www.instagram.com/p/CyHNxvsyOu/?img_index=1

² <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7v40bJGqfEo>


those universities that have instances of student support for terrorism at the top of the list of universities to visit. Please immediately inform us of any actions that have been a part of the Antisemitism Awareness Campaign, including any prior or planned campus visits.

We appreciate your timely attention to this pressing matter.

Sincerely,



Tim Walberg
Member of Congress




Virginia Foxx
Chairwoman
U.S. House Committee on
Education and the Workforce



Glenn "GT" Thompson
Member of Congress



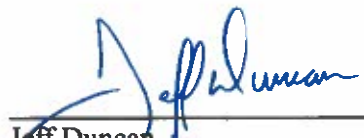
Bill Johnson
Member of Congress



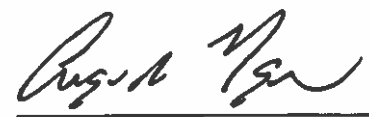
Christopher H. Smith
Member of Congress



Brian Fitzpatrick
Member of Congress



Jeff Duncan
Member of Congress



August Pfluger
Member of Congress



Randy Feenstra
Member of Congress



Claudia Tenney
Member of Congress



Dan Crenshaw
Member of Congress



Ralph Norman
Member of Congress



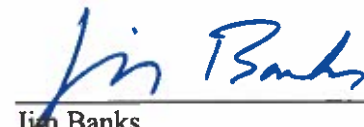
Lisa C. McClain
Member of Congress



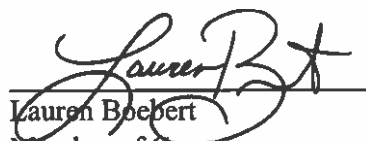
Maria Elvira Salazar
Member of Congress



Guy Reschenthaler
Member of Congress




Jim Banks
Member of Congress



Lauren Boebert
Member of Congress



Ron Estes
Member of Congress




Juan Ciscomani
Member of Congress




Beth Van Duyne
Member of Congress




Mary E. Miller
Member of Congress



Kat Cammack
Member of Congress




Lloyd Smucker
Member of Congress




James R. Baird
Member of Congress




John R. Moolenaar
Member of Congress



Steve Womack
Member of Congress



Michael Waltz
Member of Congress



Michael Guest
Member of Congress



Burgess Owens
Member of Congress



C. Scott Franklin
Member of Congress



Andy Barr
Member of Congress



Thomas P. Tiffany
Member of Congress



Andrew Ogles
Member of Congress



Pete Stauber
Member of Congress



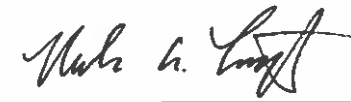
Nick LaLota
Member of Congress



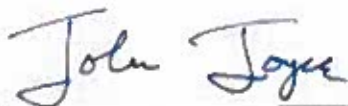
Russell Fry
Member of Congress



Vern Buchanan
Member of Congress



Nicholas A. Langworthy
Member of Congress



John Joyce, M.D.
Member of Congress



Bill Huizenga
Member of Congress



Gus M. Bilirakis
Member of Congress



Lance Gooden
Member of Congress



Barry Moore
Member of Congress



Aaron Bean
Member of Congress